

Saint Mary, Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church

28 Greenock Road,
Largs KA30 8NE

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Membership: Larissa Aron, Sandi Bray, Tim Bray, Lewis Docherty, Stephanie Fisher (Sharon Gladwell), Bridie Lamont, Celia Lewis, Mgr. Peter Magee, Michael McGlynn, Morag McGrath, Alana Reilly, Edward Stewart, Luciana Stewart.

Tuesday, 17th June 2025, 7-8pm

MINUTES

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Sederunt & Apologies: Present – Larissa, Tim, Stephanie, Sharon Michael, Alana, Edward. Apologies: Sandi, Bridie, Celia, Morag, Luciana.
3. Deanery Pastoral Council for North Ayrshire.

Bishop Frank wishes there to exist in each of the four deaneries of the Diocese a **Deanery** Pastoral Council. At some point, he will also establish a **Diocesan** Pastoral Council. No indication has yet been given of the precise purpose, nature or format of the new deanery pastoral council. However, it will probably entail the coordination of pastoral initiatives which are best planned at deanery level. The aim will be to support the pastoral life of the parishes which comprise the deanery. It will meet twice per annum. Our deanery is St. Mary's, named after the church of St. Mary in Irvine, and covers North Ayrshire. A first meeting of the council will take place on 30th September (tbc). Each parish priest and two volunteer lay members of his parish pastoral council will combine to form the deanery pastoral council. The two lay members from St. Mary's in Largs have yet to be identified.

4. Updates –

- RCIA, Journey in Faith: prospects for 2025-2026. Alana Reilly voiced the satisfaction of the whole parish at the success of the reintroduction of the RCIA into the parish in 2024-2025. It is a case of now building on that as we move ahead. Essential will be the promotion of the RCIA programme within the parish area (from Fairlie to Wemyss Bay). The use of the parish social media outlets, website and paper communications (bulletin, posters, fliers) will be undertaken. Since the programme would commence each year in

September, the promotion needs to be done now and over the summer months. Parishioners are themselves encouraged to speak about the RCIA by word of mouth to anyone they think may be considering membership of the Catholic Church – or, indeed, to anyone at all who may be searching. The RCIA team is at the core of the promotion, but we are all baptized and confirmed missionaries and so are called to use the graces we have received to draw others to Christ in His Church.

On the matter of the use of the social media, website, etc., a wider discussion emerged which concluded with the decision to set up a Digital Team which would work to improve the use of these tools in relation to every aspect of parish life. Mention of it has since been made in the parish bulletin of 22nd June.

- Primary school – Stephanie & Sharon. The school has been very active in the area of faith and of its Catholic identity along with other Catholic schools in the Diocese. A partnership has been established with St. Patrick's school in Troon to promote especially the ongoing Catholic formation of the teachers and staff of the school. Fr. Peter has been invited to contribute to that in the course of the next academic year. Apart from the sacramental programme so ably promoted by our teachers, the school has been present at Mass in the church (weather permitting!) on a number of holydays of obligation, it has continued, when possible, to provide children to read at the Saturday Vigil Mass and seeks to link school activities with whatever is going on in the parish. During 2025-2026, it is hoped to promote Mass in the school itself on a more regular basis, as well as the introduction to the children of Eucharistic Adoration. The school is also keen to interface with the RCIA programme to do what it can to promote it among the school community.
- Eucharistic Revival – Fr. P..
 - o “Capernaum Days.” The Eucharistic Cenacle has been praying and working quietly to develop Eucharistic awareness and revival in St. Mary's and also in Our Lady's in Millport. One aspect of this is the “Capernaum Day” which is a mini-retreat and pilgrimage focused on the Eucharist. The plan will be to hold it on a Saturday, perhaps once every couple of months, from 9am to 4pm. It will begin with 9am adoration and rosary in St. Mary's. Mass at 10am will be centred on the Eucharist. At 11am in the hall, a presentation of one or two of the Eucharistic miracles documented by Blessed Carlo Acutis will be made, with time for questions and discussion. At 12 Noon, it's time to eat your packed lunch and socialise with other day pilgrims. For 1pm, we aim to have pilgrimed together to the Benedictine Monastery

for another period of adoration, possibly with a short input from a priest. Around 1.45pm we walk together towards the ferry terminal and catch the 2.15pm to Millport. About 3pm, there will be a showing of the life of Blessed Carlo or of some other Eucharistic saint, witness or theme. We then conclude with tea/coffee and informal discussion. Each pilgrim makes his/her own way home. The Capernaum Days will be open initially to parishioners of both our parishes and anyone else who happens to be interested. As they develop, and when the Triptych dedicated to SS. Carlo, Francis and Clare has been blessed by the Bishop, the hope is to open these Days further afield. They aim to be educational, spiritual, liturgical and penitential, and to draw pilgrims into a deeper Eucharistic life. It will be good to invite, for example, school groups, men's groups and other associations to experience a Capernaum Day. Naturally, the format of the day will be adapted to the needs of those attending.

- Triptych dedicated to SS. Carlo, Francis and Clare. In recent days, things have moved forward with great promise on this score both in terms of funding and in the pinning down of exactly what the Triptych will look like. When completed, it will be positioned in the centre of the back wall of the side aisle of the church. The school has agreed to take the banner it produced for the 2000 Jubilee year, and which is currently on the back wall, and find a suitable place for it in the school. The McGinty family has also kindly agreed to the transfer of the memorial plaque for Fr. Alan to the back wall just inside the body of the church. Since the PPC meeting, Fr. Peter has sent to the graphic designer used by the Acutis family in Assisi the concept for the artwork as discussed with the Eucharistic Cenacle. It's a case of now awaiting a first version of that artwork and whatever exchanges might ensue from that. The cost of the project is not yet certain and the different elements of it will need to be priced separately, priority being given to the artwork itself (laserjet technology will project the artwork onto canvass which then will be mounted on wood). We will have to see how this unfolds, step by step, but with confidence that something truly beautiful will result.
- Welcoming new parishioners (Larissa and Michael). The Census Form which new parishioners fill out already provides much information. An important proposal which was well received is that the parish could have an annual Mass to welcome new parishioners. This could be combined with a social event in the hall. Likewise, the school could include parish information in the pack it distributes to the parents of new children at the school. Fr. Peter hopes to write a welcome letter to those who have recently arrived and have filled out a Census Form.

- Family Fun Day, 14th June. Despite the weather, the event was a great success, and families were coming and going all day between 10am and 2pm, both from our own parish school and from Largs Primary. The soup was legendary! Everyone expressed the wish that it can be repeated, and Fr. Peter gladly gave the green light for that to happen. It has great potential as a link between parish, family and school.

5. Various –

- a) Buildings' works. Fr. Peter gave an update on the works' schedule, the details of which were published in the bulletin this past Sunday, 22nd June.
- b) Practising synodality as a PPC: This item will be the first on the agenda at the next meeting. Time did not permit it to be aired in any meaningful way at this meeting.

6. AOCB. Sharon asked about the professional photographs of the stained-glass window donated by the Parish to the School just before covid. Fr. Peter will look into this.

7. Date and time of next meeting: TBA.

8. Closing Prayer.